

It's Nomination Time .

2005 Small Business Week Awards

Small Business Week is held annually by the U.S. Small Business Administration to celebrate and honor the achievements of small business owners and champions across the nation. Locally, the Maryland celebration takes place every May and our winners then go on to compete regionally in Philadelphia. Those winners move on to the national competition in Washington, DC. Typically ten to twelve awards are presented each year. Past award categories have included the Small Business Person of the Year, Entrepreneurial Success and Young Entrepreneur.



We are anxiously awaiting the final details and award categories for the coming year's program from SBA Headquarters. In the meantime, start thinking about potential nominees. You can nominate yourself, a co-worker or business associate—anyone who is an outstanding business person or someone who supports small businesses beyond the duties of their “day job.” Nominations can be made by individuals, companies or community and business organizations.

Be sure to mark your calendars, as all nominations will be due in the Baltimore District Office by Friday, November 19, 2004. Nominees are cleared and judged during the winter months and announced in mid to late March. Winners will receive their awards at the prestigious *21st Annual Maryland Small Business Week Awards Breakfast*, currently scheduled to be held Friday, May 13, 2005.

If you are interested in participating in the 2005 awards program or would like additional information, contact Rachel Howard, via email at rachel.howard@sba.gov or call (410) 962-6195, ext. 319. As soon as we receive the final award categories and nomination guidelines, we will be emailing this information to those who have expressed an interest. The information will also be available on the SBA website, www.sba.gov and the Maryland homepage at www.sba.gov/md. For more information on the Maryland celebration and recent winners, visit the event website at www.mdsmallbizawards.org.

